

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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## Collecting For Fun Or Profit

By Jack R. Schorr



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## Collecting For Fun Or Profit

By Jack R. Schorr

If you intend to make a profit out of your collection, it ceases to be fun, and a hobby, and becomes a business with all the liabilities attached thereto.

A short time ago a friend of mine decided to dispose of his Alger collection. He said he had enjoyed them for fifteen years; he picked them up when they were 50c to \$1.00 apiece. His collection was remarkable, in that most were in above average condition. The point of the story is that he was asking only a fraction of what some collectors ask. He said he had enjoyed collecting them, why should he hold someone up? That's probably why he enjoyed collecting them. He wasn't worrying about how much he could get for them, or which books he could trade them for.

Some of the most exciting finds have been made in areas least expected and not planned or bargained for. "Crossed Signals" in Big League series by Standish, in very good shape, came my way for almost the asking.

A friend of mine back East said he would find me "Radio Boys to the Rescue," one of the more difficult books to find. A few months later the book came, a nice bright copy, no strings attached. I didn't have to part with an arm for it, either. He enjoys his collection and passes on some of the fun to someone else.

It's usually when you plan and scheme to get some particular item for your collection, that you end up with something less than desirable. When you start paying what you know is too much for your books or dime novels, you set in motion, whatever you want to call it, images of

what you expect to receive and nine chances out of ten you are going to be disappointed when you get it. You are only feeding the inflation of the collecting market and taking the fun out of it for your fellow collectors.

When you start charging top prices or demanding rigid, almost impossible, trades you lose the relationship with the person you are dealing with that is essential for the fun and excitement in the deal. Pass on some of your fun. Don't be like a collector I used to know—rest his soul—who, having acquired not only one complete set of the series, was working on the third that he could sell for ten times their worth, when it was time for him to take the curtain call. That's not fun; that's a monkey on your back.

When you charge top dollar for your duplicates, the liabilities attendant to the transaction are that the person you are selling to expects top quality and if you don't deliver an unhappy situation follows and this is not a fun thing any longer.

What I am saying is that when the spontaneity and thrill of finding and sharing some of the pleasures of your hobby cease, it's time you took a long look and decided if it's time to hang up a sign and quit the hobby, or try to find a coffin with shelving along the sides.

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297. David Harris, Wiley Road, Mohegan Lake, N. Y. 10547  
298. L. C. Dobbins, 2025 Lincoln Ave., Apt. C08, Evansville, Ind. 47714  
299. R. J. Folsom, 1613 Arbutus Ave., Anaheim, Calif. 92805  
300. Frank L. Isbell, 820 S. W. 3rd Ave., Portland, Ore. 97204  
301. J. Ernest Wagner, 76 W. Washington St., Bradford, Pa. 16701  
302. Dr. Robert L. Dart, 33 Franklin S., Cedar Grove, N. J. 07009  
303. R. Gordon Kelly, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Univ. of Penn., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104  
304. Daryle E. Jones, 217 East Point Lane D-10, East Lansing, Mich. 48823  
305. Frederick G. Ruffner, Jr., P. O. Box 5156, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

306. Richard A. Kipp, 2174 Davidson Av., Bronx, N. Y. 10453  
 307. New York University Liby., Fales Collection, 19 University Pl., 5th Flr.,  
     New York, N. Y. 10003  
 308. Evelyn B. Byrne, 277 E. 207th St., New York, N. Y. 10467  
 309. Annie L. Green, c/o Guide-Kalkhoff-Burr, 225 Varick St., New York,  
     N. Y. 10014  
 310. John L. Fell, Film Dept., San Francisco State College, 1600 Holloway  
     Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94132  
 311. John Bright, P. O. Box 3352, San Bernardino, Calif. 92404  
 312. Mrs. Will W. de Grummond, 209 S. 29th Ave., Heritage Apt. 216, Hatties-  
     burg, Miss. 49301  
 313. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street, San Diego, Calif. 92101  
 314. Frederick V. Fell, 652 West Hudson St., Long Beach, N. Y. 11561  
 315. Earl V. Chapin, Woodville, Wisconsin 54028  
 316. Mrs. Margaret M. Dahl, 2133 Fox Ave., Madison, Wisc. 53711  
 317. Roy J. Stanfill, 8412 St. Helens Ave., Vancouver, Wash. 98664  
 318. Herbert A. Faulkner, Box 5301, Richmond, Virginia 23220

There was a net increase of 15 members during 1970. Seven members died during the year, J. Edward Leithead, George French, Herbert Leitstein, John E. Clark, A. R. Seder, Col. Richard Gimbel, Rev. Roland D. Sawyer. 24 members dropped for lack of interest or other reasons. State University of New York, Morrisville, Joseph L. Kapica, Baltimore County Public Library, Richard S. Sprague, Kansas State College at Pittsburg, Kans., Ned Hall, Madelyn W. Stenberg, Carl H. Anderson, William C. Kennedy, Kenneth Magenau, Russell Hughes, J. E. Comshaw, Mary E. Bond, John F. Matt, Michael Campbell, Robert P. Burns, O. B. Holder, Mrs. Edgar J. Stone, Paul G. Brewster, D. Adamovich, James M. Burnside, Donald J. Osterhout, Mrs. Irene Gurman and Mrs. Roy E. Morris. 46 new members were enrolled beginning with No. 272 above.

#### NEWS NOTES

Frank C. Acker offers to send a copy of the Yale Alumni Magazine containing the article on the Merriwells to the first 25 members who send him the cost of postage (11 cents, preferably in stamps). Just write to Frank at 12 Cooke Street, Providence, R. I. 02906.

Edwin Sommers of Prattsville, New York, sent in an article from the National Observer about George Blanda comparing his feast to Frank Merri-

well. The name Merriwell is still used by many sports writers and sports-casters in describing super sports feats. It has become part of the American sports heritage.

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 Attleboro, Mass. 02703

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- The Cub Battery—Farrar & Rinehart
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### T. TRUXTON HARE

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- My Friend Jim
- Tom Winstone, "Wide Awake"

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